

A girl christened Margaret can succeed in getting all the members of the family but her brother to call her Margaret, and he will insist upon calling her Maggie.

Alderman Backer of Brooklyn is a philanthropist—also a real estate dealer. He has offered to the first family that is blessed with twins in his district a house, rent free, as long as they want to occupy it. To the first family that registers triplets he offers to give a house and lot. Triplets are regarded now as an unequalled blessing in the alderman's district.

After several unsuccessful attempts and three years' labor the unparalleled feat of cutting a ring out of a single diamond has been accomplished by the patience and skill of Mr. Antoine, one of the best known lapidaries of Antwerp. The ring is about three-quarters of an inch in diameter.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup
For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25 cents a bottle.

A girl never tries to extinguish the spark so long as a man has money to burn.

In spite of all the doctors that were called in to testify in the Luetgert murder case at Chicago, one of the jurors got sick and caused a suspension of the trial.

A Chicago woman with two broken ribs has demonstrated the impracticability of alighting from a moving street car with a baby in one arm and a market basket on the other.

A new inmate at the Iowa industrial school is Elmer Davis, aged 5 years. He was sent up for stealing a horse and buggy, a bicycle and tricycle and setting fire to a dwelling house.

Some Swiss convicts recently escaped from prison, and an advertisement announcing the fact says that, "with the close cropped hair, knickerbockers and striped jackets, the fugitive murderers may be easily mistaken for American or English tourists exsursioning in the Valais Alps."

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY.
Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All Druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c.

Which is greater, a railroad engineer's responsibility or a passenger's risk?

FARM AND GARDEN.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO AGRICULTURISTS.

Some Up-to-Date Hints About Cultivation of the Soil and Yields Thereof—Horticulture, Viticulture and Floriculture.

Burning Over Old Strawberry Beds.

NOTICE in your issue of July Mr. Brinkley's inquiry in relation to the burning off of old strawberry beds, writes J. H. Hale in Strawberry Cultivator. I am not much of a believer in old strawberry beds, still I know that under certain conditions they are fairly profitable, for on old beds the fruit ripens a week or so earlier than the same varieties in new beds. In years past I had a considerable experience in burning over old beds, but it has nearly always been within two or three weeks after the fruiting season, when I have a mowing machine go over and cut down berry plants, weeds, grass, and everything quite close to the ground and then in a few days after all were thoroughly dried and there was a good fair wind blowing I have started fires on the windward side and burned the field over rapidly; this killed all fungus diseases, insects, weed seeds, etc., and injures but few of the plants, although occasionally where the roughage is a little heavy it may make too hot a fire and hurt a few crowns. If this burning over can be done just before a rain storm I have found the plants start new leaves very rapidly. I have some times after the burning run a smoothing harrow over the entire field to loosen up the ground a little; this tears out a few plants, but does no harm to matted beds; it is sometimes advisable after the harrowing to run a cultivator over between the rows and loosen up the ground, which helps to stimulate a new growth more rapidly. What effect mowing off the tops and burning the field later in the season would I am not sure, but the fruit crowns will be forming late in August and early in September, and I would not think that burning over at this season would be safe or advisable. I am rather of the opinion now that as far south as Norfolk, where fruitage was ended in May, that it would be better to defer burning until very early next spring, sometime in late February or early March, when the ground was dry enough, a quick fire over the field might do some good. Some years ago I had an accidental fire get into an old strawberry field early in spring and burnt off the tops and a lot of old hay mulch and where this burning over was, the fruit was earlier and better than where left undisturbed; still one accidental success of this kind would not be a guarantee that like results would follow every such burning.

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of man and team filling gullies and chuck-holes, and doing a little grading of steep bluffs, would be worth twenty dollars on a few farms with which I am acquainted. It would save wear of wagon, team and driver's temper, and make it possible to increase the size of loads without danger of overloading. This work should be done thoroughly and on time. I prefer having it done a month before harvest, so that some wear may make it smooth. These are "details," but details count. A man will spend half a dollar to go to a circus and be happy two hours, while that half a dollar expended in permanently getting rid of some nuisance would save him from being mad a month, if all the little vexatious times could be shoved together and be thus measured.

Digestive Power of Animals.

The digestive and assimilative powers of animals are much more vigorous when they are young than when they have grown old, and in selecting cattle for feeding purposes this should be borne in mind. This difference is plainly shown in the tests that have been made from time to time, the gain being much more rapid during the first two years than it is afterwards, and the profits from feeding correspondingly greater. It is frequently the case, to be sure, that old cattle grow very fat, but it must be borne in mind that this has come about from long-continued feeding, and the question is to be considered whether, when the value of the food consumed is taken into account, there is any profit left. In the selection of animals it should not be taken for granted that a large beast will necessarily eat more than a small one, for this is not always the case. Much depends on the powers of assimilation. It has often been noticed that one lot of cattle will thrive and make rapid gain on much less food than another. Careful watching of the stock while being fattened, and keeping an accurate account of the cost of food consumed, will soon enable a man to make such selections as may be depended on to show good returns.—Ex.

Diversifying Agricultural Products.

The first thing that suggests itself to my mind is diversification of our agricultural products. We are now importing from foreign countries agricultural products of an average value of \$389,651,012, which is a little more than one-half of all our importations of all kinds. Some of these importations cannot be profitably produced here; a large share of them can and ought to be produced here by American farmers. This would give employment to labor in this country and ought to be produced here by American farmers. This would give employment to labor in this country and keep at home the millions that go abroad to pay for foreign labor. Such diversification would also reduce the production of the cereals which have been produced in late years at a loss. It is folly for us to try to force upon consumers more of any product than their wants demand. We must learn to supply them with what they want and then make them pay fair prices for the same. In this way we may exercise some control over our business and realize some profit on our labor and investment.—J. H. Brigham.

Cabbages in Winter.

The old plan of burying, or putting cabbage in trenches during winter, or for winter use, has become obsolete, and a more simple and easy plan has been adopted. Where cabbage is grown on a large scale for shipping purposes, the best plan is to lift the cabbage and stack them two tiers deep and as closely as they can be placed in an orchard, or wood if convenient, and cover with leaves to the depth of two or three inches, the leaves to be kept in place by a slight covering of earth, says American Gardening. In this way the heads will keep perfectly sound all winter, and they can be easily taken up as wanted for shipping. For family use cabbages can be kept in the same way, only it will not be necessary to make the second layer. It is quite important to keep them a little below the freezing point. It has been suggested to keep them in some convenient building, but this plan has always resulted in failure, as the dry atmosphere is fatal; cabbage must be kept moist and cool, the slightest wilting renders it unfit for the table.

Keeping Grapes.

Concerning methods of keeping grapes, Consul-General Jones writes from Rome, Italy: "A recent bulletin of the School of Agriculture of Scandicci, Italy, describes experiments made by Professor Marchi for the keeping of grapes fresh during the winter. A certain quantity of grapes (comprising different varieties) were hung up in a cool and dry place, all damaged berries having been previously removed; a second lot was packed in dry, pulverized peat in wooden boxes. At the end of four months the grapes that had been hung up had become decayed and had dropped off; on the other hand, those that had been packed in the boxes were found to be in fine condition. This is, therefore, a simple and economical method. Another one consists in gathering the bunches with a good bit of stem attached and immersing their tips in bottles containing water and pulverized charcoal.

Corn Smut.—The smut does not pass from stalk to stalk in the field, and there is no danger of contamination in this way. The infection takes place when the corn is very young, the germinating spores entering the tenderest part—the root, node and lowest joint; and after the disease is once in the plant no application will do the least good.—Ex.

If you have bog holes in the pasture where the cows can go and drink the stagnant water, have them either filled up or drained.

Bees and Horticulture.

I have lately had my attention called to the fact that there was a great difference in the yield of honey from colonies located only from one to two miles apart, writes Mrs. L. Harrison in Rural World. Judging from this, orchardists, farmers and gardeners, will not get the full benefit of their crops of fruit, vines and clovers, if they do not keep bees upon their own fields. Especially is this true, if the weather should be foggy and damp during the blooming season. Specialists in bee-culture know that a good place to locate an apiary is near large orchards, seed farms, alfalfa or alsike clover fields, pickle farms, etc. Those who raise cucumbers under glass, find they must have bees in their green house or their cucumbers will not set. Those who are engaged in these pursuits, unless there are large apiaries near them, should cultivate bees as well as fields. "He who would live at ease, should cultivate both fruit and bees." It would be better for the welfare of our country if bees were more equally distributed. Very large apiaries are not as desirable as that every orchard and farm should have sufficient workers to gather the nectar, and fertilize the bloom. It is not necessary that every farmer should be a skillful apiarist, and secure large crops of honey, but he should keep bees in large hives, well protected from the intrusion of stock. Where horses and other animals have been injured by being stung it was usually the result of carelessness. Hives should be well protected, and not placed near hitching posts, nor drinking places.

Plant for Bees.—Bee-keepers who have experimented along this line claim that it does not pay to plant for honey alone; but there are many crops and trees that can be grown, that have a dual value, such as the clovers, alsike and white. What is more beautiful upon a lawn than the *Anden* or *baswood*? Sweet clover, *Melilotus alba* and *Melilotus officinalis*, are yearly gaining in favor, as food for stock and bees, and are fast rooting out dog-fennel and other noxious weeds, from roadsides and waste places. They thrive on gravelly knolls, railroad embankments and rocky hillsides.

Cull Out Breeding Hogs.

We would advise swine breeders to cull more closely than has been the practice, says A. L. Mason, in a contemporary. We think that at least one-third should be culled, and if half could be culled it would be better. We have known breeders who have sold every male in the herd for breeding purposes, even where they got as low as \$4 or \$5 a head for them. This is a mistake. It is not only a detriment to the business, but necessarily lowers the standard. The quality of pigs sold for breeding purposes should be up to a good standard, and they should be sold at a profit above what the pig would be worth for the pork barrel. All pigs sold for breeding purposes should have excellent bone, reasonably well marked, free from swirls, and have a good, breezy appearance. They should not only possess good action, but should be gentle and of kind disposition.

Prospects for Mutton Production.

C. F. Curtis, superintendent of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, says: "It has been shown by experiments at the Iowa station that while well-bred cattle coming 2 years old, being fattened under favorable conditions, will make 123 pounds of increase in weight from 1,000 pounds of a given kind of feed, good lambs under 1 year old will make 138 pounds of increase in live weight from 1,000 pounds of a similar ration; and the mutton in this case sold for more than the beef. In this comparison no allowance is made for the value of droppings of cattle or the fleece of the lambs. This showing does not argue against the economy of beef making. It only reveals more clearly the fact that mutton production ought to become a permanent, well-established feature of Western agriculture, and that farmers and feeders ought more generally to avail themselves of this outlet for the surplus of grain and hay crops."

Milk, as to Alkalinity.

Milk is an opaque whitish fluid, having an opalescent, bluish tint in thin layers, and a specific gravity averaging between 1028 and 1034. It is a natural emulsion, consisting of little globules of fat invested with coatings and casein and suspended in a solution of albumen, milk sugar, and salts. The reaction of milk is variable, woman's milk and that of the vegetable eating animals being normally alkaline, but that of the meat eating is acid, with the former, however, it is often possible to obtain a double reaction, both acid and alkaline, owing to the presence of an acid sodic phosphate and of an alkaline disodic phosphate. Milk becomes acid on standing, owing to the conversion of part of its sugar into lactic acid; and at the same time the fatty globules rise to the surface, forming a layer of cream, some of these globules also being freed from their protein envelopes. If a milk upon standing in a warm place for a few hours is alkaline, look upon it as suspicious for tuberculosis, etc.

Fat Hens Preferred.—With all the abuse that may be heaped upon the fat hen because she does not lay she brings more in market than any other kind of poultry except the turkey, and at times the difference in favor of the turkey is very little. As the consumers are willing to pay good prices for fat hens it is best to sell them as soon as they cease laying if in a very fat condition, as the time required to get such hens to the proper condition for laying again may be weeks or even months. The best time to sell is when you have the article the consumer requires, and at the present time the fat hen is in demand.—Ex.

Chicago butter holders are preparing to export a good deal of the butter now in their hands.

CLEVER AT HIS ART.

CLARENCE HAILEY HAS TAKEN TO EQUINE PHOTOGRAPHY.

The Specialty Suits His Fancy and He Has Made a Success—Something About the Intricacies of Getting Good Pictures of Blooded Horses.



TWO subjects which make a photographer unhappy are babies and horses—both being equally hard to handle.

That is why Clarence Hailey of St. John's Wood and Newmarket is famous. Mr. Hailey is young—about 30—and premiers, lawyers, writers and society folk interested in horses flock to his studio. He started in some twelve years ago in the general photographing business, but his fondness for horses led him to branch out into a specialty. He says very seldom will a horse adapt itself to the camera. The handsomest horses, like handsome people, often take the poorest pictures! Then, rightly enough, trainers and owners will not allow the photographer to pull about a valuable horse entered for a big race because they fear a chill for their delicate charges. Mr. Hailey selects his background, focuses his camera and has everything ready. Then the horse is walked into the scene, his blanket removed, and the picture instantly taken. The brief time allowed for posing is a great drawback and it takes experience to get good results.

Position, Mr. Hailey says, means everything. Some horses are hopeless. Sometimes the wind is wrong or the dyes are bad and then the artist has to



MR. CLARENCE HAILEY.

give up and try it again. Mr. Hailey's work is instantaneous and he uses no shutter, making hand exposures. He has some records to be proud of. Using two cameras he photographed twelve horses in fifteen minutes; again he spent three whole days trying to get good pictures of twelve mares and their foals, the difficulty being in getting the foals and their mothers together in the right pose.

Mr. Hailey's worst trouble lies in photographing hunters, which are seen at their best only when galloping with their long tails flying. When standing still they are meek-looking objects. He remedies this by painting with a brush a handsome tail floating on the breeze and wiping out the original one on the plate.

Sun-Spots and the Weather.

The interesting question whether there is any measurable influence exerted upon the earth's atmosphere, and particularly upon what we call "the weather," by the black spots on the sun, is again under discussion. Sun-spots increase and decrease in size and number periodically, the average time from one maximum of spots to another being about eleven years. At present the spots are becoming less numerous, and their minimum period is approaching. At a recent meeting of the Royal Meteorological society Mr. A. B. MacDowall gave reasons for believing that, as the sun-spot minimum draws near, there is a tendency toward greater heat in the summer and greater cold in the winter than is the case near the sun-spot maximum. The part of the world specially considered by Mr. MacDowall was western Europe, but if Europe is affected by sun-spots, America must be affected by them also.

Protection Against Torpedoes.

Writing in "Le Yacht," M. Duboo states that the Japanese have made some remarkable experiments in connection with the best means of strengthening a ship's hull against torpedo attack. Two hulls were prepared, each with an inner shell, the space between the two being in one case left empty, and in the other packed with bamboo. On exploding equal charges against the outer shell of each the first-named hull had both outer and inner skins wrecked, while the second one case the inner skin escaped injury almost completely, though the bamboo packing was reduced to shreds.

To Study Plant Diseases.

An experiment station for what has been called the "vivisection of plants" has been established by the Department of Agriculture in Washington. Somewhat similar stations exist elsewhere, but it is said to be the intention to make this more extensive than any other. Valuable results are expected from the study of the diseases of plants, and it has long been suggested that "plant doctors," just as now we have doctors for men and animals

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Caution: The Columbia Photographic Contest closes October 1st. Terms of competition may be obtained of any Columbia dealer, or will be mailed by us upon application.

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